

KANSAS STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

Information may be found at <http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/FundLoan.html>.

Questions regarding the SLRP should be directed to primarycare@kdheks.gov.

The Kansas State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) offers eligible health care providers an opportunity to receive assistance with the repayment of their qualifying educational loans in exchange for a minimum two-year commitment to provide health care services at an eligible practice site in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). The SLRP is jointly funded by the State of Kansas and the National Health Service Corps. Program eligibility requirements and benefits are established by federal law authorizing the State Loan Repayment Program (Section 388I of the Public Health Service Act, as amended).

The SLRP awards are made on a competitive basis and are limited to available funds. Financial support is provided in the form of loan repayment for an initial two-year service obligation. Public Law 108-357, enacted October 22, 2004 makes all funds disbursed on or after January 1, 2004 for the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program (NHSC LRP) and federally-funded State Loan Repayment Programs (SLRP) exempt from gross income and employment taxes. This law also excludes these funds from being taken into account as wages in determining benefits under the Social Security Act.

The health care professional may receive up to \$25,000 per year of the initial two-year contract for the repayment of outstanding educational debt according to the recipient's profession shown below. After the initial two-year contract has been fulfilled, the health care provider may extend their contract for up to three additional years of service in one-year increments. The table below indicates the amount each health care provider is eligible to receive.

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER TYPE	<u>INITIAL SERVICE</u>		<u>CONTINUATION</u>		
	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5
Doctor of Allopathic Medicine (MD) Doctor Osteopathic Medicine (DO) Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000
Certified Nurse Practitioner or Nurse Midwife Physician Assistant Clinical Dental Hygienist Clinical or Counseling Psychologists Clinical Social Worker Psychiatric Nurse Specialist Clinical Professional Counselor Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist Mental Health Counselor	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$5,000

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Practice Site Eligibility and Requirements

- The practice site must be in a Kansas federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) in the appropriate discipline of the health care provider's licensure (medical, dental or mental health).
- The practice site must be a public or nonprofit entity and provide services to individuals regardless of their insurance type or ability to pay.
- The practice site and the health care provider must charge for services at the usual and customary rates prevailing in the areas in which such services are provided, except that if a person is unable to pay such charge, such person shall be charged at a reduced rate (discounted sliding fee scale) or not charged any fee.
- The practice site and the health care provider must accept assignment under Medicare (section 842(b) (3) (B) (ii) of the Social Security Act) for all services for which payment may be made under Part B of Title XVIII.
- The practice site and/or health care provider must enter into an appropriate agreement for Medicaid under Title XIX and Title XXI to provide services to individuals entitled to medical assistance under Medicaid.
- The practice site must have a written nondiscrimination policy and provide services in a culturally and linguistically appropriate fashion responsive to the needs of the area's general population.

The practice site may not use SLRP funding as a salary offset. Salaries for health care providers participating in the program should be based on prevailing rates in the practice site's area.

Health care providers may only work at the practice site approved by the SLRP, unless a change in practice site is approved in writing by the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health.

The practice site must agree to cooperate with Office of Primary Care and Rural Health and respond in a timely manner to any request for information by email, mail, and phone or through site visits for the purpose of monitoring compliance with the SLRP.

Health Care Provider Eligibility and Requirements

The health care provider must (i) be a U.S. citizen or national, (ii) have completed the appropriate level of education, and (iii) have a current permanent Kansas license or certification to practice in his/her designated profession/field. General practitioners who have not completed residency training programs are not eligible to participate in the SLRP. Behavioral/mental health providers must be licensed at the level that allows them to practice their specific discipline independently and unsupervised.

FIELD	ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER TYPE
Primary Care	Doctor of Allopathic Medicine (MD) Doctor Osteopathic Medicine (DO) Certified Nurse Practitioner Certified Nurse Midwife Physician Assistant Provider must provide services in an approved primary care specialty - family medicine (and osteopathic general practice), internal medicine (including geriatric), pediatric, obstetrics/gynecology, and general psychiatry.
Dental Health	Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) Clinical Dental Hygienist Registered Clinical Dental Hygienists
Mental Health	Clinician or Counseling Psychologist (PhD or equivalent, includes Clinical Psychotherapist) Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (master's or doctoral degree with major study in counseling) Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist (master's or doctoral degree with major study in marriage and family therapy) Licensed Clinical Social Worker (master's or doctoral degree in social work) Mental Health Counselor Psychiatric Nurse Specialist

Health care providers must be employed by a public or nonprofit entity, with at minimum a two- year contract, to provide patient care at a Kansas SLRP-approved ambulatory, clinical practice site physically located in a medically underserved area.

All health care providers must serve in the clinical practice of his/her profession full time, a minimum of 40 hours per week for at least 45 weeks per service year. The 40 hour work week may be compressed into no less than four days per week with no more than 12 hours in any 24-hour period. Time spent on-call does not count toward the 40 hour week. Hours worked over the required 40 hours per week will not be applied to any other work week.

All health care providers, *except* those noted below, at least 32 hours per week must be spent providing direct patient care in an ambulatory care setting at the approved practice site during normally scheduled clinic hours. The remaining eight hours per week may include practice-related administrative activities or other non-clinical activities such as research or teaching.

Physicians with specialty in Obstetrics/Gynecology or Geriatrics, and dentists with specialty in Pediatrics must spend at least 21 per week providing direct patient care in an ambulatory care setting at

the approved practice site during normally scheduled clinic hours. The remaining 19 hours per week must be spent providing clinical services to patients in the practice site, or providing clinical services in alternative settings as directed by the practice site, or performing practice-related administrative activities.

No more than a total of 35 work days (or 280 work hours) per contract year can be spent away from the practice site for vacation, holidays, continuing professional education, illness or any other reason. Absences greater than seven weeks in a SLRP service contract year will cause an amendment to the SLRP contract to extend the service commitment end date or may cause the participant to be in default of the SLRP contract. The health care provider must pay the amount specified in the SLRP contract default provision if he or she is determined to be in default of the SLRP by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).

Individuals in the Reserve Component of the US Armed Forces or National Guard are eligible to participate in the SLRP. If the health care provider's military training and/or service, in combination with other absences from the practice site, exceed 35 workdays per service year, the SLRP service obligation will be extended to compensate for this break in full-time service. If the participant is a reservist and is called to active duty, the amount of time spent on active duty must be added to the terms of the original contract.

The health care provider must not discriminate in providing health care services to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries and those unable to pay for health care services. The health care provider must accept assignment under Medicare for all services for which payment may be made under Part B of Title XVIII. The health care provider must also enter into an appropriate agreement for Medicaid under Title XIX and Title XXI to provide services to individuals entitled to medical assistance under Medicaid.

Disqualifying Situations

- The health care provider may not have any other outstanding contractual obligation for health care provider service to the federal government (e.g., an active military obligation, NHSC LRP, NHSC Scholarship Program, and Nurse Education Loan Repayment Program) or to any state or other entity.
- The health care provider is not eligible to participate in the SLRP if a breach of obligation has occurred for service to the federal government, a state government or other entity.
- The health care provider may not have a judgment lien against their property for any debt to the United States.
- The health care provider is not eligible if the health care provider has had any judgment liens or any federal debt written off as uncollectible (pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3711(a) (3)) or had any federal service or payment obligation waived.
- The health care provider may not have a history of defaulting on any federal payment obligations (e.g. Health Education Assistance Loans, Nursing Student Loans, federal income tax liabilities, FHA Loans, etc.) even if the creditor now considers them in good standing.
- The health care provider is not eligible to participate in the SLRP if currently delinquent in child support payments.

Qualifying Educational Loans

Qualifying educational loans are government and commercial loans for actual costs paid for tuition and reasonable educational and living expenses related to the undergraduate or graduate education of the participant leading to a degree in the health profession in which the participant will satisfy the SLRP service commitment. The educational loans must be obtained prior to health care provider applying for the SLRP.

Consolidated or refinanced loans may be considered for repayment, so long as they are from a Government (Federal, State, or local) or private student loan lender and include only qualifying educational loans of the applicant. If an eligible educational loan is consolidated or refinanced with any debt other than another educational loan of the applicant, no portion of the consolidated or refinanced loan will be eligible for loan repayment. If an otherwise eligible educational loan is consolidated/refinanced with ineligible (non-qualifying) debt of the applicant, no portion of the consolidated/refinanced loan will be eligible for loan repayment. For loans to remain eligible, applicants/participants must keep their eligible educational loans segregated from all other debts. Eligible educational loans consolidated with loans owed by any other person, such as a spouse or child, are ineligible for repayment.

If the applicant reaches the finalist round for review, the Office will request the applicant to complete the SLRP Health Care Loan Information and Verification form for each loan and provide supporting documentation. Finalists must provide a copy of documentation as indicated in the Health Care Provider Loan Information and Verification form for all qualifying loans, prior to receiving official SLRP contract agreement.

Federal Loans

- Promissory note/master promissory note or disclosure statement
- Disbursement report indicating the original disbursement dates, type of loan, and loan amounts. If this information is not available, submit an Aid Summary report downloaded from The National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) website (<http://www.nsls.ed.gov>) which indicates a complete list of the federal loans.
- Most recent account statement which reflects the current loan balance

Private Loans

- Promissory note/master promissory note, disclosure statement, or loan application
- Disbursement report indicating the original disbursement dates, type of loan, and loan amounts
- Most recent account statement which reflects the current loan balance

Grouped Loans

A grouped loan allows you to make one payment and still have several loans. If you have a grouped loan you must provide a Health Care Provider Loan Information and Verification form for each loan contained in the group.

Consolidated Loans

A consolidated loan pays off multiple loans resulting in one loan and one payment. If education loans have been consolidated, attach a copy of the loan documents for health profession education costs that were consolidated into the consolidated loan. Submit one Health Care Professional Loan Information and Verification form for the consolidation, but list on a separate sheet of paper the original date and amount of each educational loan, including the original disbursement date, type of loan, and loan amount, add health care provider and practice site at top of each additional page.

Federal Consolidated Loans

- Consolidation promissory note or consolidation disclosure statement.
- Disbursement report *for each loan in the consolidation* indicating the original disbursement date, type of loan, and loan amount. If this information is not available, submit an Aid Summary report downloaded from The National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) website <http://www.nslds.ed.gov> which indicates a complete list of the federal loans.
- The most recent account statement which reflects the current loan balance.

Private Consolidated Loans

- Private consolidation promissory note or private consolidation disclosure statement.
- Original promissory notes or disclosures statements for each loan included in the consolidation
- Disbursement report for each loan in the consolidation indicating the original disbursement date, type of loan, and loan amount.
- The most recent account statement which reflects the current loan balance.

Program Default Clause

Participants who fail to begin or complete their SLRP contract service obligation or otherwise breach the terms and conditions of the obligation are in default of their contract and are subject to the financial consequences outlined in the contract. By statute, 42 U.S.C. 254q-1(c)(3)(A)(ii), the SLRP contract must contain a default provision which is at least as stringent as, but not more favorable than, the default provision for the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program (NHSC LRP) which is found at 42 U.S.C. 254(o)(c)(1). The financial consequences for breach of the NHSC LRP service obligation are as follows:

- The total of the amounts paid by the United States to, or on behalf of, the participant for loan repayments for any period of obligated service not served;
- An amount equal to the number of months of obligated services not completed multiplied by \$7,500; and
- Interest on the above amounts at the maximum legal prevailing rate, as determined by the Treasurer of the United States, from the date of breach, except that the amount the United States is entitled to recover shall not be less than \$31,000.

APPLICATION EVALUATION & REVIEW PROCESS

Applications for new awards for the SLRP are accepted annually during a pre-determined open application period. For exact dates of the current SLRP application period, please refer to the SLRP web-page at <http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/FundLoan.html>. Applications must be fully complete with all required documentation and mailed to the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, postmarked on or before set application deadline.

Applications are assessed by Office of Primary Care and Rural Health staff to ensure all eligibility requirements are met prior to the beginning the scoring process. Each application will be scored through a structured review process across the following domains:

Section/Area	Weighted Score
Community Need	25%
Practice Site Information	25%
Provider Personal Statement	50%
	100%

Community level data will be pulled from U.S. Census Bureau and other state and federal data sources to determine community need. Applicants' personal statements will be scored through a blinded review process by 3 to 5 person committee representing KDHE Division of Public Health and external partners.